

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 EB-06 NEA-10 /089 W

----- 107229

R 241300Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4103

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0668

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PFOR,SF

SUBJ :PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER WARNS OF SOUTH
AFRICA'S ISOLATION

REF :CAPE TOWN 657

LUSAKA ALSO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM

1. HEAVY PLAY GIVEN BY SOUTH AFRICA PRESS TO 'REVELATIONS'
CONTAINED IN LEAKED NSSM-39 HAS ELICITED PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM
PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER COLIN EGLIN. OCT 23 CAPE TIMES REPORTED
EGLIN STATED THAT DOCUMENT ILLUSTRATES SOUTH AFRICA'S ISOLATION
FROM WESTERN WORLD. EGLIN ARGUED THAT DESPITE SOUTH AFRICA'S
POTENTIAL STRATEGIC VALUE, P OLD ASSESSMENT BY THE LEADING
COUNTRY IN THE WESTERN WORLD INDICATES
THAT ALL STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES ARE NEGATED BY THE DISADVANTAGES
WHICH FLOW FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S RACE POLICIES.'

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2. ACCORDING TO EGLIN, IMPLICATIONS OF ISOLATION ARE THAT SA WOULD HAVE TO DEFEND ITSELF MILITARILY WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM ALLIES AND COULD NOT COUNT ON WESTERN WORLD FOR HELP IN COUNTERING ANTI-SA DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVES. EGLIN FURTHER SPECULATED THAT AMERICAN INVESTORS UNWILLING TO PUT MONEY 'IN ANY COUNTRY FALLING OUTSIDE PROTECTIVE UMBRELLA OF US GOVERNMENT STRATEGY.' HEWING CLOSE TO PROGRESSIVE LINE, EGLIN ARGUED THAT ONLY HOPE FOR SA IS 'BOLD INITIATIVE' TO END RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. CAPE TIMES SAID THAT BOTH FONMIN MULLER AND OPPOSITION LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF HAVE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON NSSM.

3. COMMENT: EGLIN'S COMMENTS SPOKE TO CENTRAL CONCERN OF MANY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS. OF ALL STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN NSSM PROBABLY MOST DAMAGING TO SA PRIDE ARE THOSE WHICH INDICATE THAT US HAS NO OVERRIDING VITAL INTERESTS HERE. ON OTHER HAND, DISCLOSURE OF NSSM-38'S CONTENT, AND THE WAY IT BEING INTERPRETED BY SOME NEWSPAPERS IN SA, WILL ADD TO SUSPICIONS HARBORED BY MANY SA BLACKS THAT USC'S AIM IS TO PRESERVE WHITE RULE IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR INVESTMENTS, RETAIN ACCESS TO STRATEGIC MINERALS AND KEEP CONTROL OF CAPE SEA ROUTE IN FRIENDLY HANDS. STORY OF NSSM-39 ALREADY BEING RELEGATED TO BACK PAGES AND PROBABLY WILL PASS FROM PUBLIC EYE BEFORE LONG,ALTHOUGH PRESS LIKELY TO RESURRECT IT FROM TIME TO TIME. HOWEVER, WHILE MANY WHITES MOST LIKELY WILL FORGET ABOUT IT, NSSM-39 DISCLOSURE MAY WELL LEAVE BEHIND A RESIDUE OF DISTRUST AMONG BLACKS OF OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA.

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